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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/789,797	02/27/2004	Patrick Miles	014US1	9437

7590 06/16/2006
Jonathan D. Spangler, Esq.
10065 Old Grove Road
San Diego, CA 92131



EXAMINER	
SMITH, STEPHANIE R	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3762	

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statements (IDSs) submitted on July 30, 2004 and May 23, 2005 were filed after the mailing date of the application on February 27, 2004. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 9, 15, 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koros et al (U.S. 5928139). Referring to claims 1 and 15, Koros et al. teach a distraction and retraction system for creating a corridor to the spine (see figures 1 and 4 and column 2, lines 43-47 and column 6, lines 42-53). Koros et al. further teach that the retractor system is received within the distraction corridor, where corridor is defined as a passageway, and the system has a plurality of blades simultaneously introduced into the corridor and are dimensioned to be simultaneously opened to create a corridor to the surgical site (see figures 1 and 4 and column 2, lines 65-67; column 3, lines 1-8 and lines 12-17; and column 4, lines 23-28). Referring to claim 4, Koros et al. teach a plurality of arm members integrally formed together with a respective one of

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said plurality of retractor blades (see figure 1 and column 5, lines 29-45), where any of the arms can be used as a handle. Referring to claim 9, Koros et al. teach that this apparatus is configured to access a spinal target site (see figures 4 and 5 and column 2, lines 43-45). Referring to claims 17 and 18, Koros et al. teach that when the retractor blades are introduced into the spinal area, at least one shim element, in this case a screw, is detachably engaged with at least one of the retractor blades (see figures 3 and 5 and column 3, lines 10-12).

Claims 1, 5-7, 12, 14-15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Desai (U.S. 2002/0010392). Referring to claims 1 and 15, Desai teaches a retraction system with blades that can be opened to create an operative corridor to the target site, the blades being comprised of the ablation catheter (see page 3, paragraph 59, page 4, paragraph 61, and page 8, paragraphs 118-120). Referring to claims 5 and 14, Desai teaches a system for cardiac ablation that includes a multi-electrode catheter (see page 4, paragraph 65). Referring to claims 6-7 and 19, Desai teaches a computer that controls the various functional components of the mapping unit, and the electrogram signals emanated from a tachycardia site of origin are detectable by the electrode array, and the arrival times of sensed electrical activity are used to map the origin of a tachycardia (see page 2, paragraphs 26-29). Further, Desai teaches instructing stimulation of the heart to pick up arrival times to determine the direction and origin of activity and map the activity (see page 5, paragraph 81). Regarding claim 12, the control unit includes a display to display an electrocardiogram of the muscle (see pages 3 and 4, paragraph 60).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 2, 3, 8, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koros et al. in view of Weiner (U.S. 2003/0225405). Koros et al. teach the apparatus described above, but do not teach using a K-wire and at least one dilator to perform distraction. Weiner teaches using K-wire for distraction and further teaches that it is well known in the art to use K-wire for distraction (see page 1, paragraph 17). Weiner further teaches that the K-wires extend through clamp openings (see page 2, paragraph 17), the clamp being a dilator because it can dilate a cavity or orifice. A clamp is a desirable dilator because it is rigid and adjustable. Regarding claim 3, Koros et al. teach the shim element as described above. Therefore, it would

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have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was disclosed to combine the distraction and retraction system taught by Koros et al. with a the K-wire and clamp because it is well known in the art and because it is adjustable yet provides support.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koros et al in view of as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Desai. Koros et al. in view of Weiner teach the apparatus described above, but do not teach placing a stimulation electrode at the tip of the K-wire. Desai teaches placing stimulation electrodes at the end of a catheter array (see page 4, paragraphs 66-68). Desai teaches that these electrodes provide accurate guidance (see page 2, paragraph 24). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was disclosed to combine the apparatus taught by Koros et al. in view of Weiner with the electrode taught by Desai in order to provide accurate guidance.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koros et al. in view of Dietz (U.S. 6126660). Koros et al. teach the apparatus described above, but do not teach a lateral, trans-psoas approach. Dietz does teach a lateral, trans-psoas approach and that this is an approach used often (see column 10, lines 27-31). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the apparatus taught by Koros et al. with using a lateral trans-psoas approach because it is common to use such an approach in distraction.

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koros et al. and Desai as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Dabney

et al (U.S. 6620157). Koros et al. in view of Desai teach the apparatus described above, but do not teach the button on the handle to initiate stimulation or the touch-screen. Dabney et al. do teach the button on the handle to initiate stimulation or the touch-screen (see column 7, lines 1-13). A button on the handle allows the user to easily and quickly provide stimulation and the touch screen also allows a user to quickly and easily select options. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the apparatus taught by Koros et al. in view of Desai with a button to provide stimulation and a touch-screen in order to allow the user to quickly and easily perform therapy or select options.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephanie Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-2834. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 7:30 am-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on 571-272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SRS 6/12/2006
SRS


GEORGE R. EVANISKO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

6/12/6

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	Examiner Stephanie Smith		Art Unit 3762	Page 1 of 1

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	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
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	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
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NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

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*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)



Complete if Known

Application Number	10/789,797
Filing Date	February 27, 2004
First Named Inventor	Miles, Patrick
Group Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown

Sheet 1 of 5

Attorney Docket No: 80100.014US1

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/Stephanie Smith/ (06/08/2006)

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Substitute Disclosure Statement Form (PTO-1449)

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Application Number	10/789,797
Filing Date	February 27, 2004
First Named Inventor	Miles, Patrick
Group Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown

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Attorney Docket No: 80100.014US1

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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Application Number	10/789,797
Filing Date	February 27, 2004
First Named Inventor	Miles, Patrick
Group Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket No: 80100.014US1	

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OTHER DOCUMENTS -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

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EXAMINER

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Substitute Disclosure Statement Form (PTO-1449)

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Examiner Name	Unknown

Sheet 4 of 5

Attorney Docket No: 80100.014US1

OTHER DOCUMENTS -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
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	Application Number	10/789,797
	Filing Date	February 27, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Miles, Patrick
	Group Art Unit	Unknown
	Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet 5 of 5	Attorney Docket No: 80100.014US1	

OTHER DOCUMENTS -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
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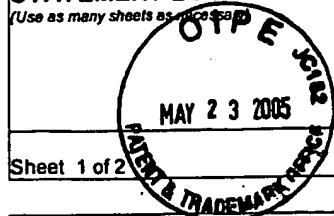
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Application Number	10/789,797
Filing Date	February 27, 2004
First Named Inventor	Miles, Patrick
Group Art Unit	3762
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket No:	014US1

Sheet 1 of 2

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	Application Number	10/789,797
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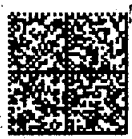
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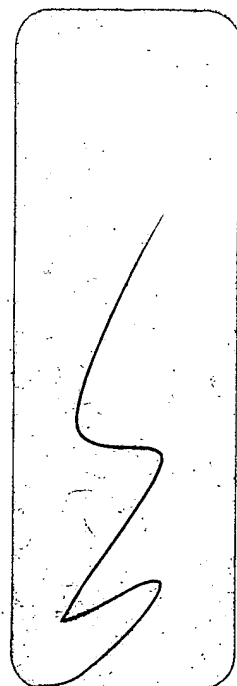
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